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pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10.

By Patricia Muir
Patricia Muir

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Abe KEIKO
Hitoshi IKEDA
Masao HIGUCHI
Nobuo SHIRAI

Serial No. : 09/195,080

Filed : November 18, 1998

Title **PACKET TRANSFER APPARATUS**

Examiner : Kevin C. Harper

Group Art Unit : 2666

RECEIVED

APR 29 2004

Technology Center 2600

April 22, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a three-month extension, a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and authorization to charge the requisite fee being enclosed.

In response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2003, please amend the subject application as follows: